Irrigation projects of Kerala

*174. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many irrigation projects of Kerala are pending clearance from the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) what are reasons for delay in clearing of these projects; and

(d) by when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) No projects from Kerala are pending, except the two major irrigation projects, namely, Chimoni and Modernisation of Neyyar Irrigation Project for which the State Government have not sent their compliance on the comments communicated to them.

Indian Scientists in Foreign Countries

*175. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian scientists serving in different countries alongwith the names of such countries as on 30th September, 1988;

(b) the corresponding figures of Indian Scientists serving in foreign countries during the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88; and

(c) the details of efforts made by the Government of India for the return of those Scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) It has not been possible to maintain a list of Indian scientists serving in different countries.

(c) A number of measures have been taken from time to time in the past to attract Indian scientists and technologists settled abroad to come back to the country. Some of these are:

—There is a provision for temporary placement of scientists and technologists under the scheme of Scientists Pool.

—A provision has also been made for creation of supernumerary posts.

—With a view to assisting non-resident Indians to secure expeditious clearance of their applications for setting up of industrial units in the country, a Special Cell has been created in the Ministry of Industry.

—New scientific departments/organisations such as Departments of Biotechnology, Ocean Development, Environment, Non-conventional Energy Sources, Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) etc. have been set up and some of these are in high technology areas which are likely to provide opportunities for scientists and technologists and attract them into the country.

—Total outlay for science and technology has been increased in the successive Five Year Plans.

—Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers has been made to scientific institutions to improve working conditions of scientists.

—Facilities to import equipment have been provided to the scientists and technologists returning from abroad.

—Programmes have been launched through which core groups of scientists are created in the country with all necesssary modern

facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

—Indian-origin professional men and women who have distinguished themselves in their fields of activity and are settled abroad, are being invited for short term technical assignments to assist in our developmental efforts in frontier areas of technology and emerging areas of science through a UNDP sponsored programme known as TOKTEN (Transfer of knowhow through expatriate Nationals).

Anti-T. B. Vaccine

*176. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though the demand for anti-T.B. vaccine in 1982-83 was 300 metric tonnes, its production was 128 metric tonnes;

(b) what is the current demand and production of anti-T.B. vaccine in the country;

(c) what are the reasons for the gap in the supply and demand thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to increase its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) B.C.G. is used as the anti-T.B. vaccine. During 1982-83, the requirement of BCG was 270.00 lakh doses while production of the same in B.C.G. Laboratory, Guindy, Madras was 245.94 lakh doses.

Requirement of B.C.G. vaccine during 1988-89 is 361.14 lakh doses. At present, the production and ampouling capacity of the factory is 260.00 lakh doses annually.

The gap in the supply and demand has increased mainly because a larger percentage of infants (85 per cent) are to be covered, more margin of wastage has to be allowed for ensuring high quality of services and on account of limited ampouling capacity.

Steps have been taken to increase the supply of freeze dried BCG vaccine by increasing the ampouling capacity by procuring additional equipment and machinery for installation at Guindy. After installation of this equipment, it will be possible to prepare requisite quantity of ampoules (10 doses) of freeze dried vaccine. Production capacity of the Unit will also be augmented to produce more than 360.00 lakh doses annually. This will be sufficient to meet the country's requirements.

Setting up of Atomic Plant in Koodangulam

*177. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any memorandum raising objections to the setting up of an Atomic Plant in Koodangulam in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The contents of the memorandum mainly relate to safety of the plant, public and environment around the proposed nuclear power plant. These aspects are adequately taken into account during all stages of setting up such a plant at any site. Review on all safety aspects is independently carried out by Atomic Energy